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Sikh Temple Sacramento



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February 1, 2016

Tracie Yee, Curriculum Frameworks & Instructional Resources Division
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 3207
Sacramento, CA 95814.

SUBJECT: COMMENTS FOR HISTORY–SOCIAL SCIENCE FRAMEWORK, SECOND FIELD REVIEW DRAFT,
APPROVED BY THE INSTRUCTIONAL QUALITY COMMISSION NOVEMBER 20, 2015.
Chapter 11, Grade Seven – World History and Geography: Medieval and Early Modern Times
Page 307, Lines 1549 – 1562.

Dear Ms. Yee:

Thank you for the release of History–Social Science Framework Second Field Review Draft,
Approved by the Instructional Quality Commission November 20, 2015, and offering a chance to provide
comments.

The Sikh Temple, Sacramento is a representative body representing Sikhs in the Sacramento area, and
will like to provide a few comments to clarify the teaching of the Sikh religion in California schools. We
are providing comments for Chapter 11, Grade Seven – World History and Geography, Medieval and
Early Modern Times, Page 307, Lines 1549 – 1562. The comments are redlined on the attached
document. In addition, a clean copy, including, our comments is also attached.

Please forward attached comments to the members of the History–Social Science Subject Matter
Committee of the Instructional Quality Commission. We urge the Commission to incorporate our
comments in the final approved History-Social Science Framework.

The comments provided by Dr. Shiva G. Bajpai on November 19, 2015 are inadequate and unacceptable
to the Sikh community. We recommend that those comments should not be included in the subject
document.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Balbir Singh Dhillon, President
Sikh Temple Sacramento
Tel.: 916.919.6196
Fax: 916.929.5284

Chapter 11
Grade Seven – World History and Geography: Medieval and Early
Modern Times
Page 307, Lines 1549 – 1562:

A new world religion, Sikhism, was founded ~~in 1469~~ in South Asia. ~~Sikhism was founded~~ by Guru Nanak ~~(1469-1539), an influential theologian, a social reformer~~ who challenged the authority of the Brahmins and the caste order. Students learn about the Sikh Scripture (*Guru Granth Sahib*), articles of faith, the turban, and Sikh history. Guru Nanak taught that all human beings ~~(including women)~~ are equal and can realize the Divine within themselves ~~without any human intermediaries or priests~~. Sikhs believe that each individual can realize the Divine on his or her own through devotion to God, truthful living, and service to humanity. The three basic principles of Sikhism are honest living, sharing with the needy, and praying to One God. With the addition of Sikhism, there were now four major religions ~~(Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism)~~ of indigenous origin. While relations between people of different religions were often peaceful, ~~generally,~~ most Muslim rulers persecuted ~~people of other indigenous religions, especially Sikhs as well as Hindus and Jains~~. Other Mughal rulers, most notably Akbar, encouraged and accelerated the blending of Hindu and Islamic beliefs as well as architectural and artistic forms.

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Chapter 11

Grade Seven – World History and Geography: Medieval and Early Modern Times

Page 307, Lines 1549 – 1562:

A new world religion, Sikhism, was founded in South Asia by Guru Nanak (1469-1539), an influential theologian, who challenged the authority of the Brahmins and the caste order. Students learn about the Sikh Scripture (*Guru Granth Sahib*), articles of faith, the turban, and Sikh history. Guru Nanak taught that all human beings (including women) are equal and can realize the Divine within themselves. Sikhs believe that each individual can realize the Divine on his or her own through devotion to God, truthful living, and service to humanity. The three basic principles of Sikhism are honest living, sharing with the needy, and praying to One God. With the addition of Sikhism, there were now four major religions (Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism) of indigenous origin. While relations between people of different religions were often peaceful, most Muslim rulers persecuted people of other indigenous religions, especially Sikhs. Other Mughal rulers, most notably Akbar, encouraged and accelerated the blending of Hindu and Islamic beliefs as well as architectural and artistic forms.